

Reply sent 21/4/05

11 April 2005

BBC Charter Review
Department for Culture, Media and Sport
2-4 Cockspur Street
London
SW1Y 5DH

Dear Sir

Re: BBC

I write with regard to a recent advert in The Times newspaper inviting comments relating to the BBC.

I restrict my views to the news broadcasting area.

The BBC is one of the last bastions of nationalisation and as with most of these types of organisations they develop along the lines of 1950's old Labour views. There is a tendency for them to be highly unionised and they tend to project socialist dogma.

I stopped listening to Radio 4 early news because John Humphreys constantly attacked any politician that seems to put forward any view that did not correspond with his own. I also find his anti-American views offensive.

I stopped buying The Times when he was a columnist and I was pleased that the BBC stopped him from having a dual role by being a columnist.

This to me is the major problem. If I do not like something I stop buying it. However, if I do not like the BBC I still have to pay and if I do not I can be taken to Court and forced to pay.

During the Iraq war, the BBC went out of its way to make the American troops look bad. I am sure that the Iraqis used the BBC to show any damage to hospitals, housing and the like.

Having travelled in this part of the world extensively it is not beyond the Iraqi Government's interest to blow up their own people to grab some sympathy. I am in no doubt that the crying children were given a good slap to make them cry so when filming took place then a crying child would have a greater impact.

During this war, I was pleased that Sky News was able to put forward a balanced view and with CNN and Fox News, one could see that our troops and the Americans were in the main trying to keep down civilian casualties.

It is interesting that as the BBC is funded by every household in the country that the BBC news adopts these types of policies, why is not more representative? In the main during the war they dragged out as many left-wing Scottish socialists as they could and when they were spent, they went to Tony Benn a well-known anti-war person.

Programs like Question Time seem to fill the audiences with people who hold views I cannot agree with. If the BBC is a national broadcaster paid for by the people of Britain it should represent them all whether they are right-wing liberals or left-wing which it does not do now.

The major interviewers are generally left-wing tree huggers who hate vehicles. This attitude comes over in their interviews. Who can you think of in the news room who would support more road building, more housing, privatising the National Health Service, less public transport. Jimmy Young did and he was sacked.

Yours faithfully

Robert Williams

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